

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00591 180236Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, KS, KN, UN

SUBJECT: ROK INTEREST IN UN MEMBERSHIP

REF: SEOUL 1295 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MISOFFS FEBRUARY 17 MINISTER AHN AND COUNSELOR S.Y.LEE STATED THAT ROKG HAD NO PLANS TO SEEK ACTION ON UN MEMBERSHIP. AHN SAID REFERENCE IN FEBRUARY 7 MFA STATEMENT (SEOUL 1105) ON ADMISSION OF TWO KOREAS "JOINTLY OR INDEPENDENTLY" WAS SIMPLE RESTATEMENT OF ROKG POLICY WHICH WAS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL AS RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN MEMORANDUM OF FEBRUARY 1.

2. MISOFFS NOTED DIFFICULTIES THAT ANY INITIATIVE ON ROK UN MEMBERSHIP WOULD ENCOUNTER, POINTING OUT ONLY PROSPECT OF OVERWHELMING GA VOTE IN SUPPORT OF ROK COULD POSSIBLY WARRANT MOVE. THIS WAS SIMPLY NOT IN CARDS, GIVEN SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS OF NORTH KOREA, PLUS EVEN LARGER NUMBER THAT WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE SIDES. MOREOVER, EVEN SMALL PRO-ROK MAJORITY VOTE COULD PROBABLY ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH INTENSIVE LOBBYING IN NEW YORK AND CAPITALS, WHICH WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE IF OBJECT WAS TO DEMONSTRATE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT THAT ROK ENJOYS. IN
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00591 180236Z

ADDITION, ANY SUCH INITIATIVE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY PROVOKE HOSTILE MOVE THAT WOULD REOPEN WHOLE KOREAN QUESTION AND ALL PROBLEMS THAT INVOLVED. AHN EXPRESSED COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THESE POINTS AND INDICATED ROK MISSION WOULD BE REPORTING TO SEOUL SOON ITS VIEWS ALONG THESE LINES.

3. AHN SAID ROKG QUITE PLEASED AT PROGRESS IT HAS MADE IN

ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, BUT AGREED THAT THESE GAINS DO NOT NECESSARILY TRANSLATE INTO PRO-ROK VOTES IN UN, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY REFLECT DECISIONS OF GOVTS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH. THIS WAS POINT, HE NOTED, THAT SOME "HAWKS" AT HOME DID NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTAND.

4. AHN TOLD US THAT ROK FONMIN WOULD ARRIVE IN NEW YORK MARCH 2 AND IS EXPECTED TO SEE SYG WALDHEIM MARCH 3.
LEONARD

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NNN

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